

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-34 are pending; Claims 1-30 are presented for examination; Claims 31-34 were withdrawn from consideration; Claim 1 is amended; and no claims are newly added or canceled herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment, as support may be found, at least, in Figure 1.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Chapman et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,522,421, hereafter Chapman) in view of Weiser (U.S. Pat. No. 5,920,404).

At the outset, Applicant thanks Examiner Burgess and Primary Examiner Najjar for the interview granted Applicant's representative on April 25, 2005. During the interview, the outstanding rejection of Claims 1-30 was discussed with regard to the cited references.

As discussed during the interview, Claim 1 recites:¹

a communication unit which receives email through a communication line from a remote site, the email having been sent by a user and including a first identifier and data ...

an input unit which receives a second identifier entered by the user through direction operation thereof at a local site where said apparatus is installed; and

a control unit which controls said printout unit to print the data corresponding to the first identifier at the local site by reading the data from the accumulation unit if the second identifier matches the first identifier.

The outstanding Office Action admits at page 3 that Chapman fails to disclose or suggest an input unit which receives a second identifier entered by the user and a control unit as recited in Claim 1. The outstanding Office Action attempts to remedy this admitted

¹ Claims 2-30 depend from Claim 1.

deficiency by relying upon Weiser. However, Weiser fails to disclose or suggest the second identifier and the control unit recited in Claim 1.

More specifically, Weiser does not disclose or suggest that a user enters a second identifier to be matched to a first identifier. Rather, Weiser describes that a user identifier is entered into a communications data field at a sending facsimile processor to identify a particular recipient of messaging environment 20. The receiving facsimile processor then uses the user identifier to store the received message at a particular directory of the disk drive.² The user identifier of Weiser is not matched against a first identifier as recited in Claim 1. Consequently, as the user identifier of Weiser is not matched against the first identifier, as recited in Claim 1, Weiser does not disclose a control that controls the printout unit based on a match between the first and second identifiers.

Thus, neither Chapman nor Weiser, either alone or in combination, discloses or suggests a control unit that controls the printout unit to print the data corresponding to the first identifier if the second identifier matches the first identifier received by email. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the applied combination, and it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection of Claims 1-30 be withdrawn.

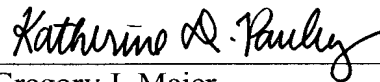
Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that there is no basis in the teachings of either Chapman or Weiser to support the applied combination. Certainly, the outstanding Office Action fails to cite to any specific teachings within either of Chapman or Weiser to support this combination. It is therefore respectfully submitted that hindsight reconstruction based on the Applicant's specification has provided the motivation to combine Weiser and Chapman, which is improper.

² Weiser, col. 4, lines 26-31.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and present amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Katherine D. Pauley
Registration No. 50,607

I:\ATTY\KDP\20'S\203271US\203271US-AM 4-25-05.DOC